

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

A1
Figs. 4(A) and 4(B) show the correlation between an estimated road ~~surface S1~~ surface S3 and an actual road surface S2 in the case of front-dropping pitching. The actual road surface S2 represents the relative road surface on the assumption that the vehicle is positioned horizontally. In that case, the relative road surface appears as an uphill slope.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

A2
In Fig. 4(A), a line S1 represents a virtual road surface that is positioned above ~~the actual road surface by the estimated road surface S3~~ by a predetermined distance such as 10cm. The window whose measured distance value are below the surface S1 is regarded as capturing the road surface and its position and the distance value are stored in the road surface distance memory 51 by the road surface exclusion part 31. Those position and distance are converted through the three-dimensional converter 52 into a three-dimensional position and stored in the three-dimension road surface memory 53.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

A3
Figs. 5(A) and 5(B) show the correlation between an estimated road ~~surface S1'~~ and surface S3' and an actual road surface S2' in the case of right-side-drop rolling. The actual road surface S2' represents the relative road surface on the assumption that the vehicle is horizontally positioned. In that case, the relative road surface appears as a right-side-up slope.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 12 going onto the beginning of page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

F4
In Fig. 5(A), a dotted line S1' represents a virtual road surface that is positioned above ~~the actual road surface by the estimated road surface S3'~~ by a predetermined distance, for example, 10cm. The window whose measured distance value is lower than the imaginary surface S1' is regarded as capturing the road surface, and its position and the distance value are stored in the road surface distance memory 51 by the road surface exclusion part 31. Those position and distance are converted through the three-

214
0014

dimensional converter 52 into a three-dimensional position and stored in the three-dimension surface memory 53.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

25

" $\tan \theta$ " and " $\tan \alpha$ " respectively represent the slopes of the straight lines respectively stored in the memory 54 and 55, and "hp" and "hr" the y-axis intercepts respectively in the memory 54 and 55. Element "h" represents the distance of the CCD camera from the road surface. "F" represents the focal distance of the CCDs. " $d = 0$ " implies that windows are not capturing the road surface.
